

# City of Greenfield

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March 8, 2000

The Honorable John M. Phillips  
Presiding Judge of the Coordinated Trial Courts  
Monterey County  
P. O. Box 414  
Salinas, California 93902

Dear Judge Phillips:

This letter is in response to the 1999 Grand Jury Investigation concerning the Salinas Valley landfill facilities. The City of Greenfield appreciates the Grand Jury process and the role it plays in providing the members of the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority (SVSWA) with an outside viewpoint of its operations. There are a few facts cited in the report that are in need of correction and these clarifications are included in the responses to the recommendations.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Greenfield joined the SVSWA when it was formed in January 1997, as a Joint Powers Authority, along with the Cities of Salinas, Gonzales, Soledad, King City and Monterey County. The purpose of the JPA was to efficiently manage the landfills in the Salinas Valley area and ensure long term landfill capacity for the region in a cost effective and environmentally sensitive manner. In December 1999, the SVSWA expanded its scope to provide assistance to all requesting member agencies in meeting the recycling goals of AB 939. The Board of Directors for the SVSWA is composed of representatives from Monterey County and each of the member cities. In keeping with its mission and since its formation, the SVSWA has continued to make positive changes in the infrastructure and operation of its landfills and diversion activities.

## **FINDINGS**

**Finding 1. Member cities will not meet the recycling goals established by AB 939 by the end of the year 2000 unless immediate steps are taken.**

The City of Greenfield agrees with this finding. The legislation of AB 939 requires all cities and counties to meet the goal of 25% diversion by the end of

1995 and 50% by the end of 2000. The goal for the City of Greenfield has been adjusted to reflect the following:

<b>1. 2000 Goal</b>	<b>1998 "Actual"</b>
32.9%	11%

The City acknowledges that the 1998 "actual" diversion figure to be incorrect due to inaccuracies in the CIWMB waste diversion calculation formula. In September 1999, the CIWMB concurred with this finding for Greenfield.

**Finding 2. SVSWA is not responsible for waste reduction but, if requested, will assist the Member Cities in recycling.**

The City of Greenfield agrees with this finding. The City of Greenfield presently has curbside recycling in place as well as weekly green waste recycling. The City of Greenfield implements this program through its contract franchise hauler Tri-Cities Disposal.

**Finding 3. Citizens, businesses and growers within the SVSWA need incentives to reduce solid waste.**

The City of Greenfield partially agrees with this finding. The SVSWA staff and the City of Greenfield staff believe that incentives are one of several elements (e.g., education, supporting infrastructure, and materials outlets) necessary to foster waste reduction among residents, businesses, and growers.

**Finding 4. Agricultural industrial waste has increased. Wax-covered cardboard, field plastic and plastic packaging are difficult to recycle and typically remain in landfills.**

The City of Greenfield agrees with this finding.

**Finding 5. As of October 1, 1999 there is no incentive for growers to separate usable waste from green waste.**

The City of Greenfield and the SVSWA disagrees partially with this finding. There are currently no reduced rates at the SVSWA landfills to encourage growers to separate materials before hauling to the landfill. However, the business incentives (cost savings) of diverting separated materials from the waste stream are present but not always easily recognized.

**Finding 6. In 1998 the amount of disposable waste generated by residents of the member cities of the SVSWA averaged 0.8 tons per person.**

The City of Greenfield does not have enough information to either agree or disagree with this finding.

? **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendation 1. Member cities arrange with their respective waste collectors for weekly collection of green waste.**

Within the City of Greenfield we offer weekly drop-off of green waste. The City Council and staff review and assess the current Franchise Agreement, as well as the effectiveness and feasibility of existing services, including green waste collection. The green waste program in Greenfield is staffed by local non-profit organizations, working in concert with Tri-Cities Disposal. Tri-Cities Disposal pays the non-profit organization for their operation of the green waste collection service. Hence, since this is rotated among the various non-profit organizations, this is in a sense an effective fundraiser for the group, but is free to the residents participating.

**Recommendation 2. Member cities initiate plans with SVSWA to increase the type and amount of materials recycled.**

The SVSWA has developed a program called AB 939 Enhanced Services, which includes the following services to the City of Greenfield:

1. Reporting
  - ? Development of new base years and more accurate diversion figures.
  - ? Submittal of AB 939 Annual Reports for each city.
  - ? Modification of the Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE).
  - ? Semi-annual reports made to member agencies.
2. Commercial and Industrial Diversion
  - ? On-site waste assessments at selected businesses and development of programs to increase diversion for businesses.
  - ? Markets development, for difficult materials such as field plastic and wax cardboard.
3. Public Education
  - ? Assist Greenfield in developing or expanding our in-house recycling programs.
  - ? Develop broad-based public education programs.
  - ? Develop schools recycling programs, and educational activities.
4. Household Hazardous Waste Program
  - ? Operates four household hazardous waste sites

- ? Operates two used oil collection points.
- ? Conducts rural one-day collection events.

5. Increased Diversion at the Landfills

- ? Develop landfill rate incentives to encourage delivery of targeted materials in a source-separated manner.
- ? Accepts source-separated household recyclable for diversion.
- ? Develops materials recovery programs at selected landfills to recover construction and demolition waste, green waste cardboard and other materials from uncompacted waste loads.

6. Review and Enforce Franchise Agreements

- ? Evaluates our existing franchise agreement to determine what areas can be improved upon.
- ? Conducts performance audits of haulers' current services.

**Recommendation 3. The SVSWA contract with a private sector company to analyze randomly the contents of waste collection trucks at the landfills to determine the amount of recyclable goods.**

This recommendation has been implemented. A waste composition study targeting uncompacted waste delivered at SVSWA facilities was completed in October 1999.

**Recommendation 4. The SVSWA contract with a private sector company to produce saleable compost.**

This recommendation is in the process of being-implemented. The green waste hauled to Crazy Horse Landfill serves the beneficial use of alternative daily cover. The material at Johnson Canyon Road landfill and Jolon Road Landfill is intended to be processed and marketed to a composter or used on-site for erosion control.

**Recommendation 5. The SVSWA contract with a private sector company to utilize discarded concrete asphalt and. base rock.**

The City of Greenfield understands that the SVSWA will in fact be contracting with a local contractor to process accumulated Construction and Demolition material at the Crazy Horse Landfill. The processed material will then be sold for road base and the residual utilized at the landfill for road construction. Similar program is being planned for Johnson Canyon Road Landfill.

**Recommendation 6. The SVSWA create incentives for the public, businesses, and growers to reduce landfill waste by increasing or decreasing fees, depending upon the material being discarded.**

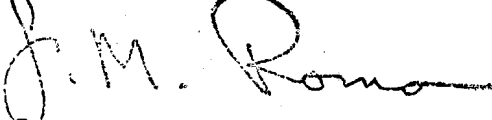
The SVSWA has initiated such a program to analyze the cost of processing and marketing recyclable material (such as wood waste, green waste, appliances and metals) and expects to adjust tipping fees in late spring or early summer of 2000.

**Recommendation 7. Member Cities implement and initiate procedures for sale of recyclable items similar to the Environmental Park at the Marina Landfill, including the distribution, at no charge, of discarded paint and household cleaning products.**

The SVSWA has initiated at its household hazardous materials facility a program for no-cost redistribution of paint and household cleaning products. The SVSWA's preferred approach is the diversion of recyclable materials before they reach the solid waste facilities rather than at a resale activity. As a result, the focus is at the source of waste generation, e.g., businesses, schools and residences.

On behalf of the City of Greenfield, I hope that these responses provide clarification to the facts pertaining to the 1999 Grand Jury Final Report. The City of Greenfield appreciates the opportunity to comment on the report and its findings. Should you have any questions regarding our response please call Randy Anstine, City Manager for the City of Greenfield.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Mike Romo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "R" at the end.

J. Mike Romo  
Mayor